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GSU View, July 17, 2018

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gsuview

A newsletter for students, faculty & staff



July 17, 2018

Vol. 56, Issue 3

News

Happy 49th Birthday, GSU!



On **Tuesday, July 17** Governors State University turns 49 years old. Learn about the university's founding story and mission, which continues to guide it today, in "[GSU Celebrates 49 Years of Evolving Education](#)." *Special thanks to the GSU Library for archival information.*

Student Life to Offer Stipend for SAC Leadership Opportunities

Effective AY 2018 – 19



Student Activities Council (SAC) leaders will [receive a stipend](#) beginning fall 2018. A stipend is a periodic payment granted to a student, meaning that executive board members and committee chairs will receive a paycheck. All executive board and committee chair positions had been volunteer up until this point. The Student Activities Council receives an allocation each year from Student Activity Fees that every student pays as part of their university fees. SAC receives a budget allocation each academic year which is managed by Student Life.

This stipend not only provides monetary appreciation for the hard work students do but creates an incentive to continually to raise the bar for both quality and quantity of student programming for the campus community.

For a full description of the stipend, including positions available and application information, click [here](#).

STEAM Camp for Kids at GSU!



Look out for STEAM campers on the Governors State campus this week and next as they learn concepts in the visual and performing arts, chemistry, engineering, physics, and robotics.

A few spots remain for Week 2, **July 23 – 27** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Camp fees are \$200 per child, per week. Campers may also register for STEAM Camp Plus, available Monday to Thursday, 3 to 5 p.m. Additional fee of \$60 per session, per camper, applies.

For additional information, click [here](#) or call 708.534.4088.

GSU Only 340 Pounds of Recycled Plastic Away From Memorial Bench



“Even in a shortened holiday week, we collected a great deal of plastic, and we only have 340 more pounds to go,” announced Ann Marie Nagel, President of the Friends of the GSU Library. “If we continue to get this type of support, we will collect the much needed 500 pounds of plastic bags so that we can get an all-plastic bench from Trex.Com. We will be putting the bench on the Alumni [Path](#) to honor the memory of Eric Nicholson, whom many on campus knew for his work in the library and his involvement

with the Friends of the Library.”

All are invited all to visit Trex.com to learn more about the recycling program. By visiting this site, one can learn what items are to be recycled, which are primarily plastic bags and containers.

“All are encouraged to continue contributing their plastic items. It is definitely less plastic that will go into landfills and oceans, and, most importantly, we will be honoring a colleague who himself was a great environmentalist,” said Ann.

Questions? Email GSULibraryinfo@Govst.edu

Reserve Your Seats for the CSIFF Feature Film Showcase



The Chicago Southland International Film Festival will screen two documentaries during its Feature Film Showcase on **Saturday, August 4**. Admission is free and open to the public. [Reserve your seats for the following screenings:](#)

4 p.m.: [Little Wound's Warriors](#), produced and directed by Seth McClellan, an alum of GSU's Independent Film and Digital Imaging MFA program, is an hour-long documentary about Native American high school students born and raised on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation. The film won the Best Public Service Award at the 2016 American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco, and has been called "[stunningly beautiful](#)" by [Time Out Chicago](#). In addition to making films, McClellan also teaches film history and video production at Triton College.

6 p.m.: [Minding the Gap](#), produced by Bing Liu, has won the special jury award for breakthrough filmmaking at Sundance as well as the audience award at Full Frame. Liu is also a Story Director and DP for an upcoming Steve James mini-series, America To Me. Liu is a 2017 Film Independent Fellow and Garrett Scott Development Grant recipient.

This event is sponsored by the School of Extended Learning, Digital Learning & Media Design, Governors State University Library, and the GSU Friends of the Library, and funded in part by an Intellectual Life Grant.

New Catering Options from Arena Food Service



Arena Food Service, GSU's on-campus dining vendor, has updated its catering guide with new menu items and pricing. Find 2018 – 19 catering information on [GSU's Campus Dining Webpage](#) under the *Catering* section.

[Contact Arena](#) with questions regarding catering orders.

Creating a Legacy of Education

Though Nicholas Zeyadeh was well-educated when he arrived at GSU, his time here was most impactful. In fact, his older son, Nasser, followed Zeyadeh to GSU and graduated with a [Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration](#) in May. Nasser studied business, but his passion is writing horror fiction and he has already published two [books](#) on Amazon. Read [more](#).

Announcements and Events

Prairie Pollinators with Dr. Mary Carrington



Tonight, **July 17**, Dr. Mary Carrington, GSU Professor of Biology, will be [discussing the research she conducts with undergraduate and graduate students](#)—exploring the declining interactions between prairie plant species and insect pollinators, which are currently declining in number.

The [discussion is part of a Green Drinks series](#) at Brickstone Brewery in Bourbonnais. Networking starts at 6 p.m. and presentation begins at 6:30. The program is free and open to the public.

A central theme in Dr. Carrington's work is understanding and promoting conservation of natural areas, a mission she extends to community by serving on the board of directors (and as a former board chair) of the Land Conservancy of Will County. GSU alum Taylor Smith first wrote about Dr. Carrington's work and the Biology Field Station for the CAS newsmagazine earlier this year. Read the story [here](#).

GSU's Honors Program Hosts Back to School Supply Drive

[GSU's Undergraduate Honors Program](#) will be hosting a back to school supply drive! All donated supplies will be given to a local elementary or middle school in need. Be on the lookout for donation bins labeled "SCHOOL SUPPLIES" throughout campus.

Bins will be located in the following areas:

- Library/CUBE Intersection
- D-Building Main Entrance
- Hall of Governors
- Financial Aid Office
- Prairie Place

The drive will take place **July 23 – August 3** and **August 27 – September 7**. Further specific details will be announced. For more information, please contact Honors Program Student Council Chair [Juan Gutierrez](#) or Honors Program Graduate Assistant [Jonathan Cruz](#).

Free or Discounted Exams Available at the Testing Center

The Testing Center at GSU is currently offering a special summer discount for non-GSU students to take the CLEP and DSST for only \$15! Governors State enrolled students get a free sitting fee if they wish to take the CLEP or the DSST!

Find out more [here](#).

Highlights

GSU Students at the Steppenwolf



GSU students enrolled in this summer's Chicagoland Theatre course, offered by the [Theatre and Performance Studies](#) program, visited the Steppenwolf Theatre for a production of *Guards at the Taj*. Throughout the course, students will see eight shows in six weeks and learn how to think and write critically about live performance.

Rosie Mae Riley Scholarship Fund Hosts Third Fundraiser



On **July 8** in Stone Mountain, Georgia, friends and family members of Rosie Mae Riley, recently deceased mother of Merri Wilkerson, gathered for a Sip & Stroke event to benefit the scholarship fund for GSU [Theatre and Performance Studies](#) students.

"July 2018 is the first anniversary of Rosie Mae Riley's death. Mother was 80 years old when we lost her," said Merri. In commemoration of her death, organizers of the scholarship fund are asking friends & colleagues to each pledge \$80 for the year for a total of only \$6.67 a month. Donations are to be received between July 2018 and July 2019.

Workshops & Trainings

A list of workshops for students, faculty, and staff, including Career Services drop-in hours, can be found [here](#).

Faculty: If you have not already done so, it's time to have a new headshot photograph taken. Please refer to the [schedule](#) to find a convenient time.

Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View?

[Click here to learn about our submission guidelines.](#)



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University Park, IL, July 16, 2018

GSU's Backyard, a Secret Source for Biology Research

One of GSU's best kept secrets is in its own backyard, and it starts with a grass path that looks like it leads to nowhere. Actually, this path will lead you into the depths of GSU's Biological Field Station, which is both a source of samples as well as a lab for students and professors.

Walking through the Field Station, you'll see three ponds covered in beautiful lotus during the spring and summer months. One of the ponds, Mendelson Pond, has supplied Dr. John Yunger, Professor of Biology, with 20 years' worth of data for long-term population dynamics of aquatic species.

Undergraduate students take boats into the ponds with a dredge to see critters living in the soil and to monitor variations in the water, including water temperature and dissolved oxygen levels. Across from Mendelson Pond is a small house that is used for onsite lectures and research. Research is conducted in the lower level where students carry in over 180 pounds of dirt every fall for analysis.

At least 8 different courses have projects throughout the field station allowing students from a variety of disciplines to experience the joys of nature and hands-on research experience.

Another project taking place within the Field Station is prairie restoration. Dr. Mary Carrington, Professor of Biology, is a botanist who has created 64 different plots to distinguish the effects of invasive species. She and her students are also trying to get a count of the different plant species.

Plant species can spread by the wind, animals, or even people walking; when these species are dispersed to locations they are not native to, they become invasive. Dr. Carrington is working to figure out exactly how invasive some of the plants are.

Hundreds of plants and animals call the Field Station home, making it a beautiful and serene place to study or take a stroll. Close to the water's edge, visitors can see beaver lodges and spaces where they stash food supplies for winter. These resourceful animals make their way to and from the trees to carry wood and they create runways to make their work more efficient.

To catch a glimpse of beaver activity, come out after 6 pm; they are most active in the evening. These beavers, along with hundreds of other animals, are waiting for you at the Biological Field Station.

Students studying science venture into the Biological Field Station to take their own samples for research and analysis.

*Special thanks to 2018 GSU alum **Taylor Smith** who researched and wrote this story for the student-produced CAS Newsmagazine 2017- 2018.*

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